

Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge



August 10 – August 16, 2014 [Issue 14]

Photo Credit: USFWS/Joe Samela

A Message from Monomoy

Staff remained busy this week with post-breeding season business while the Monomoy Islands were only visited once this week on 8/12. Of the most desirable business opportunities was attending the Gulf of Maine Seabird Working Group (GOMSWG) meeting on Hog Island in Bremen, ME (see section below). Although staff was unable to perform staging count surveys this week, the remaining productivity plots were removed from the colony, as the Monomoy family had to say goodbye to 2 more interns. Thank you Joe Samela and Emilie Seavey for all your hard work this season! Monomoy plans to send staff members to the Sudbury Complex to aid in the removal of water chestnut next week.

Although this is a great time of year to see staging birds, please be mindful and respectful of posted areas. Staging is an important behavior for the survival and longevity of migrating birds, so please do not disturb the birds!

2014 Field Season Update

This is a weekly synopsis of biological activities on South Monomoy, North Monomoy, and Minomoy Islands. Information within this report is subject to change. For up to date information, please contact Refuge Staff.

Bird Sightings

Double-crested cormorant
Great black-backed gull
Herring gull
Ring-billed gull
Glaucous gull
Iceland gull
Laughing gull
Bonaparte's gull
Willet
Greater yellowlegs
Lesser yellowlegs
Black-crowned night heron
Yellow-crowned night heron
Tricolored heron
Green heron
American bittern
White-rumped sandpiper
Least sandpiper
Pectoral Sandpiper
Hudsonian Godwit
Marbled Godwit
Short-billed dowitcher
Black tern
Arctic tern
Spotted sandpiper
Whimbrel
Razorbill
Mississippi kite
Glossy Ibis

Black-bellied plover
Semipalmated plover
Semipalmated sandpiper
Sanderling
Dunlin
Snowy owl
Great egret
White-throated sparrow
Turkey vulture
Peregrine falcon
Red-winged blackbird
Common grackle
Ruddy turnstone
Wilson's plover
Red Knot
Seaside sparrow
Northern gannet
Common loon
Common eider
American black duck
Magnolia warbler
Cedar waxwing
Brant goose
Eastern kingbird
Willow flycatcher
Barn swallow
Black Scoter
Gull-billed tern

Inside This Issue

- 1 Message from Monomoy
- 1 2014 Field Season Update
- 1 Bird Sightings
- 2 Bird Activity
- 2 Predator Removal and
Invasive Species Control
- 2 Roseate Habitat Restoration
- 2 iPlover
- 2 Salt Marsh Integrity
- 3 GOMSWG

Photo of the Week



Photo Credit: USFWS/Joe Samela

Bird Activity

American Oystercatchers (AMOY)

The last remaining AMOY nest at the north tip of North Monomoy was determined as lost on 8/12.

Staff is anticipating the arrival of staging individuals in the coming weeks, but notes no new individuals so far.

Common Tern (COTE) & Roseate Tern (ROST)

Staff visited South Monomoy once this week on 8/12. During this time, staff broke down the 4 remaining plots, carried the nesting structures and tern condos to the boat landing, and collected a bird suspected of having *Salmonella* to be sent in for testing.

Although staging count surveys were not performed this week, staff was happy to learn the terns previously seen with orange flags were tagged at Punta Rasa, Samborombon Bay in Argentina.

Black Skimmers (BLSK)

No new information to report.

Least Terns (LETE)

No new information to report. The nesting LETEs on Minimoy were not checked this week.

Roseate habitat restoration Project

Staff will be planting 1450 seaside goldenrod at the end of August in hopes of attracting more roseate terns for the following breeding season. The plants will be picked up from the New England Wildflower Society in Whately, MA on 8/25.

iPlover

Staff recorded 53 plover nests with iPlover this field season. This data is now part of a larger database that will help researchers better understand preferred piping plover nesting habitat.

Salt Marsh Integrity

Staff is in the work of installing two more water level loggers on Minimoy and North Monomoy. Current issues with the soil/sand preventing the level logger from being installed have hampered efforts for the past couple weeks. Staff is hoping a new order of wells will fix this problem.

Monomoy also plans to install SETs, or Surface Elevation Tables, on our study sites from

September 29 - October 3. These SETs will show us saltmarsh elevation change over time due to factors such as sediment loads and sea level rise. Measuring changes in marsh elevation and accretion will help us better understand marsh sustainability and resiliency.

GOMSWG: Gulf of Maine Seabird Working Group

Monomoy staff travelled to Hog Island in Bremen, ME on 8/10 & 8/11 for the GOMSWG meeting to present their preliminary productivity numbers for terns. Other sites and islands belonging to the working group (see below) also attended the meeting to present their numbers for common terns, roseate terns, arctic terns, Atlantic puffins, black guillemots, and razorbills, among other monitored seabirds. Working group members have worked together for many years in efforts to restore seabird populations in one of the most productive ecosystems in the world, the Gulf of Maine. While Monomoy staff learned a lot from the islands, it was especially interesting to hear how Metinic Island in Knox County, ME experienced their highest seabird productivity in 10 years, 2 years after having 0 productivity. In the afternoon, staff listened to current research projects occurring along the Gulf of Maine.



Current & Upcoming Events

Tern Staging Counts

Seaside Goldenrod Planting

Shorebird Project: Trapping Window 1

Surface Elevation Table Installment

August

Late August

September 7 -12

Sept 29 – Oct 3

AUGUST 2014						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	1	2	3	4	5	6